(ii) Manufacture of domestic fuel pellet by utilisation of lower coal seams;

(iii) Recovery of fines by oil agglomeration method;

(iv) Utilisation of lower coal seams for manufacture of Beehive Coke, and

(v) Pollution-monitoring of water from Londa and Bhowra coke plants.

Improvement in coal washeries

3389. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report published in 'The Hindustan Times' dated the 7th December, 1987 captioned 'Modifications in Washery can benefit BCCL';

(b) what steps Government have taken to incorporate the improvements in the existing washing circuits of the coal washeries which were established in the early sixties;

(c) what are the collaborative projects between Coal India Limited and Central Fuel Research Institute to upgrade the performance of the coal washeries; and

(d) whether all the projects mentioned in part (c) above are progressing as per schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the Sudamdih Washery of Bharat Coking Coal Limited set up in December, 1974, major modifications in the flotation and filtration circuits of the fine coal treatment section have been carried out to check the flow of coal fines outside the plant. Studies were entrusted to the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad and the Central Fuel Research Institute to improve the performance of the flotation and filtration circuits and improvements have been carried out on the basis of these investigations.

(c) and (d) The following collaborative/sponsored projects have been entrusted to CFRI:

(i) Incorporation of oleo flotation process developed by CFRI in a pilot plant attached to the slurry circuit of Sudamdih washery;

(ii) Stabilisation of flotation circuit of Sudamdih washery;

(iii) Washability investigations on composite feed coals of Sudamdih and Bhojudih washeries.

The first two studies have been completed.

Introduction of new species/micro-organisms

3390. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new species or micro-organisms have been discovered for the first time by Indian Scientists which threaten to change the "sweet" oil into "sour" oil and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) whether these organisms are considered to have been genetically engineered and inducted in the country by India's adversaries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) When surface waters or any chemicals are injected into the reservoir, quite frequently sulphate reducing bacteria grow in abundance in the reserve. These